

SENATE BILL 18

By Harris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1; Title 6, Chapter 54, Part 1 and Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 4, relative to exceptions to criminal trespass on city- or county-owned property.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Citizen's Right to Fight Blight Act of 2017."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-405, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection to be appropriately designated:

(1) It shall not be considered trespass under this section for an owner or lessee, or a person acting pursuant to the direction or express consent of an owner or lessee, of real property within the same county as, and situated immediately adjacent to, city- or county-owned property to enter or remain on that city- or county-owned property for the removal or maintenance of the growth of grass or underbrush or the accumulation of debris, trash, litter, or garbage, or any combination of the preceding elements, so as to prevent endangering the health, safety, or welfare of other citizens or the infestation of rats and other harmful animals from the property.

(2) A person who enters or remains on city- or county-owned owned property pursuant to this subsection assumes the risk of any injury, damage, or loss of property that may occur.

(3) The city or county and its officers, employees, and agents shall not be liable for any injury, damage, or loss of property due to the removal or maintenance of property pursuant to this subsection.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.